



The Guidon
 General Alfred Pleasonton – Camp 24
 Chartered 30 August 1999

Department of California and Pacific
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

November Issue 2016



**Meeting, Wednesday November 16th California Genealogy Society
 Brothers,**

The November meeting of the Camp, will be on Wednesday Nov 16, at 7pm. The meeting will take place at the California Genealogical Society as per normal. We shall be discussing the election of Camp officers for next year among other weighty topics. See you there.
 In Fraternity,
 Charles Kenyon
 Commander Camp 24

Time for renewal of membership

Membership dues for calendar year 2017 are now due. Membership runs from January to December 31 each year. General Alfred Pleasonton dues are \$26.00 per year. We send \$18.00 a year to National for per capita and \$3.00 to the Department of California and Pacific. Our Camp keeps \$5.00 for expenses. You can also send additional donations that we will use for Camp projects.

Name _____

Due Amount _____

Donation _____

Total _____

Please make your checks out to: SUVCW, Camp #24

You can give your dues at the Camp meeting to Commander Felton, Secretary - Treasurer Steve Johnson

You can mail them to Brother Steve Johnson, SUVCW, 384 Heathcliff, Pacifica, CA 9404

**Happy Thanksgiving Brothers
 Proclamation of Thanksgiving Washington, D.C. October 3, 1863**

This is the proclamation which set the precedent for America's national day of Thanksgiving. During his administration, President Lincoln issued many orders similar to this. For example, on November 28, 1861, he ordered government departments closed for a local day of thanksgiving.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a 74-year-old magazine editor, wrote a letter to Lincoln on September 28, 1863, urging him to have the "day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival." She explained, "You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have

the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution."

Prior to this, each state scheduled its own Thanksgiving holiday at different times, mainly in New England and other Northern states. President Lincoln responded to Mrs. Hale's request immediately, unlike several of his predecessors, who ignored her petitions altogether. In her letter to Lincoln she mentioned that she had been advocating a national thanksgiving date for 15 years as the editor of Godey's Lady's Book.

The document below sets apart the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary how he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops.

**By the President of the United States of America - Abraham Lincoln
A Proclamation.**

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the Unites States the Eighty-eighth.

**By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward,
Secretary of State**

Mark your Calendar

Annual Department Encampment

131st Annual Department Encampment

March 17-18, 2017

Bakersfield, California

Four Points by Sheraton

5101 California Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93309

[Click here to book a room online](#)

General Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24 Officers for 2016

Commander: Charles Kenyon

Senior Vice Commander: John Gee

Junior Vice Commander: Ken Felton

Secretary: Steve Johnson

Treasurer: Steve Johnson

Council: Bruce Hevelin, Jeffrey Vaillant PCC, Robert Mayer

Chaplain: Charlie Mabie

Patriotic Instructor: Brad Schall

Color Bearer: Charles Mabie, PDC

Guard: Ben Mabie

Graves Registration: Ken Felton

Memorials Officer: Brad Schall, PCinC

Counselor: Jeffrey Vaillant, PCC

Eagle Scout: Charles Mabie, PDC

Newsletter Editor: Brad Schall, PCin



Errata

The Guidon, November 2016 Issue

Gen. Alfred Pleasanton Camp No. 24
Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Brothers,

Please note the following corrections to the newsletter:

1. Our Commander is Brother Charles Kenyon.
2. The dues of our Camp are \$30, which we raised in November 2015.
3. If you are paying your dues at the meeting, please give the check to me, the Camp Secretary-Treasurer. Checks should be made out to "SUVCW, Camp 24."
4. If you are mailing the dues later, please mail the check to:
Steven Johnson, 384 Heathcliff Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Brother Steve Johnson
Secretary, Camp No. 24